

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 IO-14 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15

/154 W

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R 031736Z APR 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7906

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON COTTON,
MARCH 28-31, 1978

REFERENCE: GENEVA 4947

FOLLOWING ARE THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE UNCTAD SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON COTTON:

1. THE SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON COTTON AT EXPERT LEVEL, IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISION ADOPTED AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING CONSIDERED THAT, ALTHOUGH DOCUMENTATION HAD BEEN PREPARED, FURTHER ANALYTICAL WORK WAS STILL ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO A SUBSEQUENT SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING ON COTTON ON APPROPRIATE MEASURES AND TECHNIQUES REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF RESOLUTION 93(IV) IN RESPECT OF COTTON. THE MEETING REACHED THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS ON THE POINTS SET OUT IN THE DECISION ADOPTED AT THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING:

2. THE MEETING DISCUSSED THE CURRENT PROBLEMS OF THE COTTON MARKETS INCLUDING, PARTICULARLY, THE ISSUE OF PRICE INSTABILITY. IN THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE INTENSITY OF THE RECENT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS THE EXPERTS OF PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES EXPRESSED A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE MAGNITUDE AND CAUSES OF PRICE FLUCTUATIONS. THE MEETING AGREED THAT FURTHER WORK OF AN ANALYTICAL AND OTHER NATURE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ALLOW IT TO GIVE VALID ADVICE ON THIS QUESTION.

3. THE MEETING NOTED THAT A SECRETARIAT STUDY ON MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON WAS UNDER WAY, AND LOOKED FORWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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TO ITS EARLY CONCLUSION. IN THE INTEREST OF ACHIEVING GREATER MARKET TRANSPARENCY, IT ALSO INVITED THE ICAC TO PURSUE ITS WORK ON IMPROVING THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON COTTON, AND TO REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THIS WORK TO THE NEXT PREPARATORY MEETING ON COTTON.

4. THE MEETING LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO A PAPER BY ICAC ON THE STRUCTURE OF PRICES AND COSTS OF PRODUCTION. IT AGREED THAT THESE ASPECTS SHOULD BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE PRODUCED IN THE FUTURE.

5. THE MEETING EXPRESSED ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR WORK CONNECTED WITH RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET PROMOTION THOUGH DUPLICATION OF WORK WAS TO BE AVOIDED. THE MEETING HEARD A REPORT ON THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF CDI WHICH IS STILL IN AN EXPLORATORY STAGE, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO A FUTURE REPORT FROM THE UNDP PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR WHEN CURRENT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS WERE COMPLETED. IN THE MEANTIME IT WAS FELT THAT THE WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY IIC TO STIMULATE DEMAND FOR COTTON SHOULD CONTINUE AND BE STRENGTHENED.

6. FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE THE MEETING CONCLUDED THAT, ON THE QUESTION OF STABILIZATION, THERE WAS STILL NO CONSENSUS AS TO THE MOST PROMISING LINES OF ACTION.

THE MEETING THEREFORE REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE A FURTHER STUDY ON THE EXTENT, NATURE, CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE FLUCTUATIONS IN COTTON PRICES IN THE WORLD MARKETS.

THE STUDY OF CONSEQUENCES SHOULD BRING OUT PARTICULARLY THE

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IMPACT OF SUCH PRICE FLUCTUATIONS ON THE ECONOMIES OF COTTON EXPORTING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THEIR COTTON EXPORT EARNINGS. THE MEETING REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT, BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING, TO CONTACT PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE NEXT MEETING TO CONCENTRATE ON OPTIONS WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS OF A CONSENSUS.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE STUDIES AND THESE CONTACTS, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN AT THE NEXT MEETING TO MEASURES APPROPRIATE TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF RESOLUTION 93(IV) IN RESPECT OF COTTON, HAVING PARTICULARLY IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

7. THE FAO, ICAC AND IIC SECRETARIATS ARE INVITED TO ASSIST THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IN THE PREPARATION OF THE STUDIES REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH 6 ABOVE.

8. THE MEETING INVITED GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST THE SECRETARIAT IN ITS TASK, AS APPROPRIATE, BY THE PROVISION OF RELEVANT DATA, ANALYSIS AND OTHER INFORMATION.

9. THE MEETING DECIDED TO CONTINUE ITS WORK AT EXPERT LEVEL AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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